

Asbestos Contamination at the former W.R. Grace/Dearborn Facility

Michigan
Department of
Community Health

Erik R. Janus
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Who are the resource people?

- *Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)* – Erik Janus, Brendan Boyle
- *Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)* – Mark Johnson, Michelle Watters
- *Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)* – Brian Kelly

Why are we here tonight?

- Present our partners and colleagues and local specialists
- Discuss the basic nature of the contamination at the former W. R. Grace facility
- Be available to answer your questions and concerns

W.R. Grace/Zonolite Company

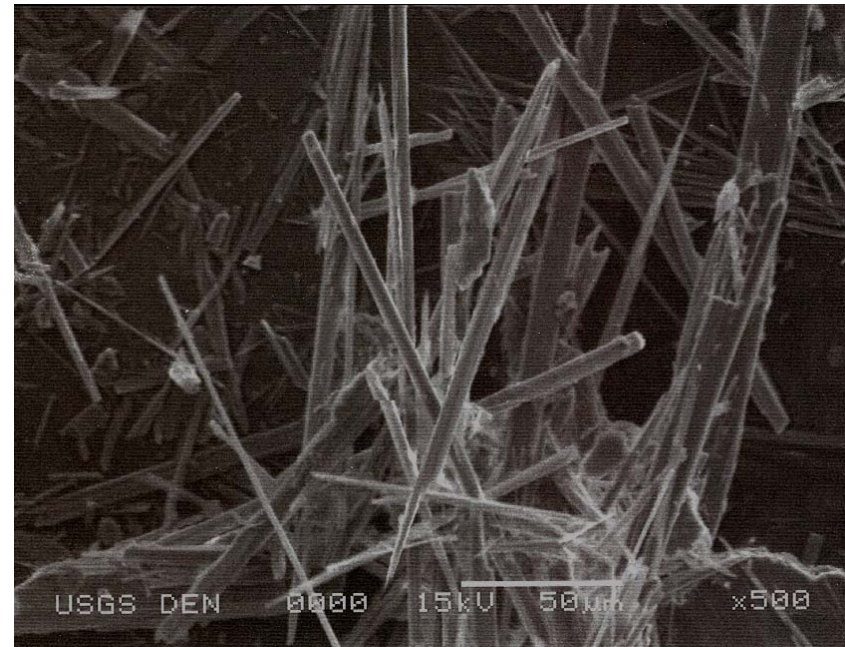
14300 Henn Street, Dearborn



- Operated from 1950s to '89
- "Expanded" vermiculite ore from Libby, MT
- Ore was contaminated with asbestos
- ***DOES NOT*** process ore today

Asbestos Facts

- Naturally-occurring minerals
- Strong, flexible, heat-resistant needle-like fibers
- Used in a wide variety of manufactured goods
- Breathing asbestos fibers can increase your risk of cancer



“Health Consultation” Conclusions

- People who worked at the Grace facility prior to 1989 were consistently exposed to harmful levels of asbestos
- “Household contacts” (spouse, kids, etc.) were also likely exposed from fibers on the workers’ clothing, shoes, and/or hair

“Health Consultation” Conclusions (cont’d)

- Most people who live or work near the site today are generally not being exposed
- Some may be exposed under unique circumstances ...
 - ... such as frequent direct contact with contaminated soil
 - ... such as coming into contact with waste material brought home from the facility

Could I have been exposed?

- You **were** exposed if:
 - You worked at the facility prior to 1989 when it still processed vermiculite ore
 - You lived with someone who worked at the facility prior to 1989

Could I have been exposed?

- You **probably were** exposed if:
 - You lived/worked near the site ***and*** had direct contact with ore, insulation material, waste material, or dust emissions from facility
 - You brought home ore, insulation material, or waste material from the facility to use as driveway, yard or garden filler

Vermiculite Ore



Vermiculite Attic Insulation



Question and Answer time!

We have provided several resources tonight to answer questions:

- MDCH
- EPA
- ATSDR
- Physician Resources (Doctors)

Who can I contact for more information?

- MDCH, Lansing – Erik Janus
 - 1-800-MI-TOXIC (800 648 6942)
 - januse@michigan.gov
- EPA, Grosse Ile – Brian Kelly
 - (734) 692 7684
- ATSDR, Chicago – Mark Johnson
 - (312) 886 0840